



January 15, 2026

Dear Members of the University Community

I sincerely hope that you and your families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and that 2026 is off to a fine start. On behalf of my brother Jesuits, I wish you every grace and blessing.

We approach the annual celebration of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. this year amid both national and international turmoil. The senseless death of Renee Good in Minneapolis, the epic images of protest in Iran, Gaza in ruins, a raging civil war in Sudan, and Ukraine still under terrible assault after nearly four years --if ever the world needed to focus on Dr. King's life and message again, now is the time.

As we honor his legacy, we are reminded that his vision of justice was not rooted in abstract ideals alone but in concrete concern for the dignity and worth of every human life. Dr. King taught that true education forms not only the intellect but the conscience—calling us to see and respond to systemic injustice wherever it appears and to stand with those whose voices have been marginalized or silenced.

Today, our reflections are shaped not only by Dr. King's enduring witness but also by events unfolding in our own nation and around the world. These events—each in its own context—call us to remember that injustice anywhere is connected to justice everywhere, just as Dr. King proclaimed. As a Jesuit institution, we are entrusted with the task of forming graduates who are “women and men for and with others.” This means we are not spectators to the suffering of others but are called to empathize with those who grieve, advocate for those denied dignity, and work—through teaching, learning, scholarship, and service—for systems that honor human life and human rights. Education, at its best, shapes not only what students can do, but who they choose to become and how they will serve the world. That requires something of all of us.

“Let us be those creative dissenters who will call our beloved nation to a higher destiny, to a new plateau of compassion, to a more noble expression of humanness.” This quote of Dr. King's is noted by the Greater Scranton MLK Commission in the promotion of its annual dinner that we are once again proud to host on our campus this weekend.

Whether at the dinner or beyond, I trust you will find ways to celebrate a leader who chose love over hate, courage over indifference, optimism over cynicism, all while embracing the opportunities afforded us in the transformational work of education to which we are all

dedicated. Let us hope, pray and work for a better year ahead, trusting that our mission will continue to contribute to the building of the Kingdom of God in ways that can only happen at The University of Scranton!

Yours faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.  
President